

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PONTA 00265 240013Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 /077 W

----- 042868

R 231855Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1210

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 265

E.O. 11652: GDS4

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AUTONOMY FOR AZORES?

1. ON JULY 15 MILITARY GOVERNOR OF AZORES, GENERAL PINTO DE MAGALHAES, ANNOUNCED THAT GOVERNING BOARD (JUNTA GOVERNATIVA) FOR AZORES WOULD BE CREATED SOON AND ASKED PUBLIC TO SUGGEST NAMES FOR BOARD. BOARD WOULD BE CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP A STATUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY WHICH WOULD DETERMINE FORM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AZORES.

2. PPD LEADER IN PONTA DELGADA TOLD US THAT PPD OFFICIALLY INFORMED MAGALHAES THAT PARTY WOULD ACCEPT GOVERNING BOARD ONLY IF IT IS TRANSITIONAL BODY LEADING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPLETE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INCLUDING RIGHT TO VETO APPLICATION IN AZORES OF LAWS PASSED IN LISBON. PPD SOURCE STATED THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE MINIMUM POSITION OF PARTY AND HINTED PPD MIGHT SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE IF GOP REFUSED TO GRANT AZOREAN POLITICAL AUTONOMY OR IF GOP CAME UNDER CONTROL OF EXTREME LEFT. THIS POSITION AGREED ON DURING FIRST AZOREAN WIDE PPD MEETING HELD JULY 13 AND REPRESENTS IN OPINION OF PARTY LEADERS THE WILL OF PEOPLE OF AZORES. SOURCE ALSO SAID NATIONAL PPD LEADERSHIP SUPPORTS AZOREAN POSITION ON AUTONOMY. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SINGLE GOVERNMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PONTA 00265 240013Z

FOR ARCHIPELIGO AND NOTED THAT PREVIOUS REGIME HAD

PRACTICED DIVIDE AND CONQUER POLICY IN KEEPING ARCHIPELAGO SEPARATED INTO THREE DISTRICTS.

3. CDS IN PONTA DELGADA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR AZOREAN AUTONOMY THAT IS SO EXTENSIVE THAT THE ONLY LINE WITH LISBON WOULD BE THE FLAG AND NATIONAL ANTHEM. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLED FOR A POPULARLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE THE PROPOSED GOVERNING BOARD NAMED BY THE GOP.

4. LTC. MIRANDA TOLD CONSULTATE EMPLOYEE VICTOR CRUZ THAT GENERAL MAGALHAES RETURNED FROM RECENT VISIT TO TECEIRA AND FAIAL ISLANDS CONVINCED THAT ONLY FULL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AUTONOMY COULD PREVENT AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE WHICH NOW HAS SUPPORT ON ALL NINE ISLANDS. MAGALHAES WILL GO TO LISBON IN NEAR FUTURE TO REPORT ON AZOREAN SITUATION AND WILL DEMAND FULL POLITICAL AUTONOMY FOR THE ARCHIPELAGO. MIRANDA SAID MAGALHAES PLANS GOVERNING BOARD MADE UP OF PPD AND PS DEPUTIES TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND REPRESENTATIVE OF CDS. MIRANDA HIMSELF IS CONSIDERING ACCEPTING CIVIL GOVERNORSHIP FOR PONTA DELGADA PROVIDED HE CAN HOLD THAT POSITION CONCURRENTLY WITH THE COMMAND OF BATTALION 18.

5. IN PONTA DELGADA YOUTHS HAVE DISTRIBUTED FLYERS SIGNED BY "COMMITTEE OF AZOREAN YOUTH 75" AND "DEMOCRATIC AND REVOLUTIONARY UNION FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF MADEIRA AND THE AZORES" REJECTING AUTONOMY AND PROPOSED GOVERNING BOARD AND ADVOCATING INDEPENDENCE.

6. RECENTLY WE HAVE NOTED THAT PEOPLE WHO NEVER DISCUSSED POLITICS BEFORE ARE NOW TALKING OF INDEPENDENCE. MANY SPEAK OF "WHEN" NOT "IF" INDEPENDENCE OCCURS.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT SEPARITISM HAS GAINED SUPPORT AND RESPECTABILITY IN RECENT WEEKS. IT IS NO SECRET THAT INDEPENDENCE HAS STRONG SUPPORT IN THE PPD. WITH POLITICAL AUTONOMY THE MINIMUM POSITION OF PPD AND REPORTEDLY ADVOCATED BY GEN. MAGALHAES WHO PROBABLY HAS SUPPORT OF MAJORITY OF MILITARY HERE: GOP FACES DIFFICULT CHOICE. IT CAN GIVE AZORES POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AUTONOMY ADVOCATED BY PPD AND THUS GIVE UP AUTHORITY TO EXTEND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PONTA 00265 240013Z

REVOLUTION TO AZORES. OR IT CAN ATTEMPT TO PACIFY ARCHIPELAGO WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AUTONOMY WHICH KEEPS DECISION MAKING POWER IN LISBON BUT RISKS GROWTH OF INDEPENDENCE MOMENT. REGARDLESS OF DEGREE OF AUTONOMY, AZORES ARE UNLIKELY TO REMAIN UNLIKED TO A COMMUNIST PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.
PFEIFLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, SELFGOVERNMENT, ARCHIPELAGOS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PONTA00265
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750254-1034
From: PONTA DELGADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750729/aaaabacx.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUTONOMY FOR AZORES?
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PO, PPD, (DE MAGALHAES, PINTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006